January 2019

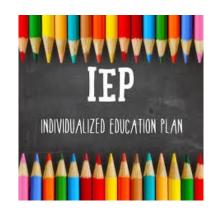


Island County Parent to Parent Newsletter

IEP and 504 Plan Presentation

What is Special Education? What are my rights?

IEPs, 504 Plans, FAPE, Evaluations and Advocacy



Wednesday, January 9th 6:00-7:30pm

105 NW 1st Street, Coupeville

Presented by Jen Cole

Jen Cole from WA PAVE (Partnerships for Action, Voices of Empowerment)

Great information and resources for families and education providers. Every year your child may face different challenges. Now is the time to ask questions and be prepared for your next IEP/504 Plan meeting. Know your Rights!

- What is an IEP or 504 Plan?
- What are my Rights and Responsibilities?
- How can I be an effect IEP team member?

Questions or to RSVP contact Tiffany (360)632-7539 t.wheeler-thompson@co.island.wa.us

| IEP vs 504 | Individualized Education Plan (IEP) | Section 504 Plan |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| Type of law | Special Education - Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) | Civil Rights - Rehabilitation Act of 1973 |
| Department | Department of Education | Office of Civil Rights |
| Requirements for eligibility | Has a disability that: a) meets criteria under IDEA, b) significantly impacts educational performance, and c) requires specialized services | Has a disability that significantly impacts a major life function. |
| What is included? | Specialized education services, accommodations, related services. | Accommodations, modifications. |
| Age limits | IEP offered through 12th grade. | No age limits with a 504 plan. |
| Where is the plan used? | Educationally, through the 12th grade. Does not transfer to college. | School, work, and college. 504 Plans will transfer to college. |
| Discipline | A Manifestation Determination meeting must be held to determine if the offense is a manifestation of the disability by the 10th day of suspension. Services are required during long-term suspension. | A Manifestation Determination meeting must be held to determine if the offense is a manifestation of the disability by the 10th day of suspension. May require reevaluation. |
| | | www.schoolpsychologistfiles.com |

Great Resources for IDEA Law, Advocacy and tips & tools for families and educators.

WA PAVE - Information, training and support regarding special education (800)5-PARENT www.wapave.org

Wrights Law - Information about Special Education law, education law and advocacy for children with disabilities www.wrightslaw.com Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction—Special Education - (360)725-6000

WA State Governor's Office of Education Ombudsman - Listen to concerns, advocate for fairness, identify needs, resolve complaints (360)725-6075

Tax Season is just around the corner, you may qualify for a tax credit

IF YOU ARE A TAXPAYER WITH A DISABILITY, OR HAVE A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A REFUND THAT PUTS EXTRA DOLLARS IN YOUR POCKET.

The IRS estimates that as many as 1.5 million people with disabilities miss out on a valuable credit for low to moderate income workers because they fail to file a tax return.

Many of these non-

filers fall below the income threshold requiring them to file; however, in order to claim the EITC, you have to file a tax return—even if you don't owe taxes for the previous year.

Those who qualify could pay less federal tax, pay no tax at all or even get a tax refund that puts an extra \$2 to \$6,318 into their pocket.

ELIGIBILITY FOR EITC

To qualify for EITC,

you must have earned income from employment, self-employment or another source that does not exceed income limits (see below) as well as meet a few additional criteria. Social Security benefits or Social Security Disability Income

(SSDI) do not count as earned income.

INCOME LIMITS FOR 2017:

\$48,340 (\$53,930 married, filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children

\$45,007

(\$50,597 married, filing jointly) with two qualifying children

\$39,617 (\$44,207 married,

filing jointly) with one qualifying child

\$15,010 (\$20,600 married, filing jointly) with

no qualifying children

INVESTMENT INCOME MUST BE \$3,450 OR

LESS FOR THE YEAR.

MAXIMUM CREDIT AMOUNTS:

\$6,318 with three or more qualifying children

\$5,616 with two

qualifying children

\$3,400 with one qualifying child

\$510 with no qualifying children

Remem-

ber: To claim EITC, you must file a tax return even if you owe no tax.

Find out if you qualify

for EITC. Ask your tax return preparer, or visit the IRS website. www.irs.gov

DISABILITY AND

EITC

Taxpayers may claim a child* of any age as

a qualifying child if the person has a permanent disability and you both meet all other EITC requirements. The tax law definition of totally and permanently disabled is:

The person cannot engage in any substantial gainful activity because of a physical or mental condition.

A doctor determines the condition has lasted or the doctor expects it to last continuously for at least a year or lead to death.

*child: son, daughter, adopt-

ed child, stepchild, foster child or a descendant of any of them such as a grandchild; brother, sister, half brother, half sister, step brother, step sister or a descendant of any of them such as a niece or nephew.

EITC AND PUBLIC BENEFIT PROGRAMS

__The law is clear

that tax refunds, including refunds from tax credits such as the EITC, are not counted as income for purposes of determining eligibility for benefits (such as Social Security disability benefits, Medicaid, and food assistance programs). This applies to any federal program and any state or local program financed with federal funds.

Use the EITC Assistant to determine eligibility and estimate the amount of your credit. provided by Informing Families

*Information

Sensory Speash Swim time is dedicated to community members with special needs and their



families. We will keep the music volume low and encourage a calm environment. John Vanderzicht Memorial Pool Sensory Time Fee \$3.00pp

Saturday 4:30pm-5:45pm and Sunday 11:00am-12:15pm

Is It Bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. More info on www.stopbullving.gov/what-is-bullving/index.html

Here is a generalized explanation that may help you explain bullying.

- *When someone says or does something *unintentionally* hurtful and they do it once, that's **RUDE**.
- *When someone says or does something <u>intentionally</u> hurtful and they do it once, that's **MEAN**.

When someone says or does something *intentionally* hurtful and they keep doing it— even when you tell them to stop or show the that you're upset—that's **BULLYING**.

PARENTS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT Courtesy of the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office



BUMBLE is similar to the popular dating app "Tinder" however, it requires women to make the first contact. Kids have been known to use BUMBLE to create fake accounts and falsify their age.

SNAPCHAT



SNAPCHAT is one of the most popular apps of 2018. While the app promises users can take a photo/video and it will disappear, recent features including "stories" allows users to view content for up to 24 hours. Snapchat also allows users to see your location.



KIK allows anyone to contact and direct message your child. Kids can bypass traditional text messaging features. KIK gives users unlimited access to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

LIVEME



LIVE.ME is a live-streaming video app that uses geolocation to share videos so users can find out a broadcatser's exact location. Users can earn "coins" as a way to "pay" minors for photos.



HOLLA is a self-proclaimed "addicting" video chat app that allows users to meet people all over the world in just seconds. Reviewers say they have been confronted with racial slurs, explicit content, and more.

WHISPER



WHISPER is an anonymous social network that promotes sharing secrets with strangers. It also reveals a user's location so people can meet up.

ASK.FM



ASK.FM is known for cyber bullying. The app encourages users to allow anonymous people to ask them auestions.

CALCULATOR%

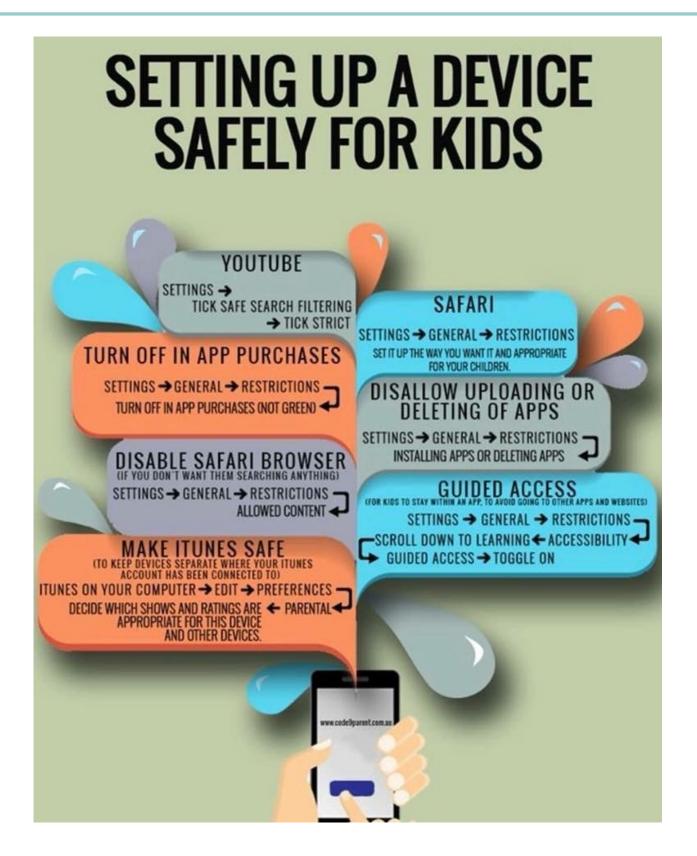


CALCULATOR% is only one of SEVERAL secret apps used to hide photos, videos, files, and browser history.



HOT OR NOT encourages users to rate your profile, check out people in their area, and chat with strangers. The goal of this app is to hook up.

Many people received electronics for the holidays. Here are the ways to make them safer for kids/adults







Island County Parent to Parent
Tiffany Wheeler-Thompson
PO Box 5000
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(360)632-7539 call/text
t.wheeler-thompson@co.island.wa.us
Check out our website. Archived newsletters and
our Special Needs Resource Guide
www.islandcountywa.gov/Humanservices/
Pages/Parent-to-Parent.aspx

Like us on Facebook for updates on events and resources in our community.

Www.facebook.com/island county parent 2 parent



SUMMIT ASSISTANCE D GS



Summit Assistance Dogs is a nonprofit organization that creates life-changing partnerships by providing highly-skilled mobility service dogs for people living with disabilities. Our dogs can retrieve dropped items, open and close doors, turn

lights on and off, fetch and emergency phone and many other tasks that would otherwise require the assistance of a human caregiver. And they provide unconditional love and increased independence for their human partners. Visit summitdogs.org to learn more. There is currently a waitlist. 360-770-3160 www.summitdogs.org Newly located in Oak Harbor.

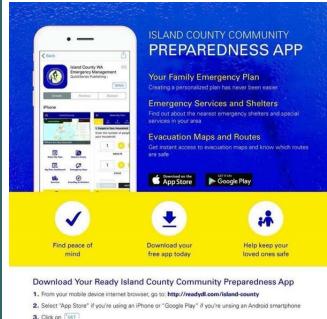
Storm season is upon us.

Better to be safe than sorry. Island County Emergency
Management has "an app for that". Alerts, Make a Plan,
Need to Know, Services and Evacuation Map and Shelters.
PSE also has a great "app" for power outages and

PSE also has a great "app" for power outages and expected wait times.

Don't forget your emergency kit!

Since we have a unique situation, being on islands, it may take some time before we are able to access the mainland in case of a catastrophe. Island County Emergency Management recommends a 2 week emergency kit. That includes first aid, food, and all the essentials you may need. For recommendations, check out their app or website. www.islandcountywa.gov/DEM/Pages/Home.aspx



Disaster Food Benefits

The storm season and power outages are upon us. Did you know that DSHS will help replace spoiled food for those who have food benefit? It's called Disaster Food Benefits. The application needs to be made within 10 days. Www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/FSA/forms/pdf/12-206.pdf